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THE MANNER OF Electing and Enstalling the Knights of the most Noble Order of St. GEORGE called the GARTER.

Which is to be performed on the 16. and 17. of *April* next, at the Castle *of* WINDSORE.

With,

A Catalogue of the present Knights *of that* ORDER.

LONDON,

Printed for *James Thrale*, and are to be sold at the

The Names of thoſe Honourable Perſons, Companions of the Moſt Noble Order of the Garter.

THe *Kings Moſt Excellent Majeſty*, Soveraign.
The King of Denmark.
His Royal Highneſs, James *Duke of* York.
The Duke of Newburgh.
Prince Elector Palatine.
Prince Rupert.
Prince of Aurange.
Algernon *Earl of* Northumberland, *Lord High Conſtable at the Coronation day.*
Thomas *Earl of* Barkſhire.
William *Earl of* Salisbury.
Charles *Duke of* Lenox *and* Richmond.
Thomas *Earl of* Southampton, *Lord High Treaſurer of* England.
George *Duke of* Albemarle, *General of all his Majeſties Forces.*
Aubery *Earl of* Oxford.
James *Duke of* Ormond, *Lord Steward of his Majeſties Houſhold.*
William *Earl of* Newcaſtle.
Montagu *Earl of* Lindſey.
Edward *Earl of* Mancheſter.
William *Earl of* Strafford.
Edward *Earl of* Sandwich.
General Marcin.

PRESENTED BY THE MUSEUM

S. S. Banks 1807.

A Relation of the manner of the Election and Inſtallation of the Noble Order of St. George, *at* Windſore, *&c.*

BEfore I Come to ſpeak of the Statutes of this noble Order, it will be neceſſary to acquaint the Reader with it's Founder, and the occaſion of it's Inſtitution. The Founder of it was *Edward* the third King of *England*, a perſon of a moſt accompliſht Virtue, the Thunderbolt of War, and in times of Peace nothing inferiour to any Lawmaker of the beſt ages ſo much celebrated. This moſt excellent Prince, the Glory of his times, and a chief Ornament of Europe, having exceedingly prevailed both againſt the French and Scottiſh Kings, diſcomforted their Armies and taken one of them in Perſon, ordained this moſt Noble Order and ſociety of Knights, ſo to adorn their Valour, manifeſted in the Warres with honor the reward of Virtue. There number 26. no more *ut pretium faciat raritas*, leaſt being elſe communicated unto many it might at laſt become deſpicable, nor ever have our Kings exceeded the number, but ſtill confined themſelves unto the firſt intention of the Founder. For the occa-

ſion of its Inſtitution it is generally received that it took beginning from a Garter of the Queen, or rather of *Joan* Counteſs of *Salisbury*, a Lady of Incomparable Beauty which fell from her as ſhe danced, and the King taking it up from the ground, a number of Nobles and Gentlemen ſtanding by laughing at it, The King ſaid that ſhortly it ſhould come to paſs that Garter ſhould be in high Honor, and eſtimation: adding withall theſe words in French *Hony Soit qui maly penſe*, (i. e.) *Shame be to him that evill thinks*. Which after was the Motto, or Impreſs of the Garter. Which were it ſo (ſaith Mr. *Cambden*) it needs not ſeem to be a baſe originall thereof, conſidering as one ſaith *Nobilitas ſub amore jacet*, He adds withall that ſome report how from his own Garter, given forth as a ſignall of a battail which ſpeed ſo fortunatly, he called them Knights of the Garter. But whatſoever the occaſion was, likely it is that it took this name from the blew Garter, which the Fellows of it weare on their left leg: carrying the aforeſaid Impreſs wrought with Golden Letters, and enchaſed with precious ſtones and faſtened with a Buckle of Gold, as with the bond of moſt inward ſociety in token of Unity and Concord, that ſo there might be a Communion as it were of Virtues and good will among them. Dr. *Cowel* reports in his Interpreter that he hath ſeen an antient Monument wherein it doth appear that this moſt Noble Order is a Colledge or Corporation, having a Common Seal conſiſting of the Kings of England as Soveraigns thereof or chief Guardians of it 25 Knight fellows (as they call them or Companions) of the Garter 14 Canons Reſident being Secular Prieſts, 13 Vicars or Chorall

Prieſts,

priests, and 26 of the inferiour sort of Gentry, Military men commonly called Poor Knights of *Windsore* (whereof indeed there are but twelve) There belongs also to this Heroick Order the Prelate of the Garter which is the Lord Bishop of *Winton* for the time being; a Chancellor, a Register thereof which alwaies is the Dean of *Windsore*, An Usher which is one of the Ushers of the Kings Chamber called the Black rod, and last of all a Chief Herauld, even the most principall of all; *Garter* first King at Arms, Instituted by that Victorious Prince King *Henry* the fifth, to attend Chiefly on this Order, and to do them service at their Funerals.

A brief View of some of the Statutes of this Order, The Kings of *England* are (as I said before) the Soveraignes of this Noble Order, and either do in person or by their lawfull Deputies by them nominated and appointed, elect the Fellows of the Order, and Solemnize the Festivals, and hold the Chapters. To them it also appertains to have the declaration, reformation, and disposition of the Laws and statutes of the said most Noble Order. Which Laws and statutes were first Instituted and devised by the Victorious Prince King *Edward*, of that name the third; after revised and ratified by many of the succeeding Kings. And on the Reformation of Religion much altered by King *Edward* the sixt. About this time (saith Sir *John Hayward* in his History of this Prince) the Order was almost wholly altered as by the statutes thereof then made doth appear. A thing not to be wondered at, for even the Laws of the most setled States and Kingdoms have been often changed and varied according to occasion and the

Princes pleaſure. Unto them alſo to the Soveraigns, I mean, or to their Deputies, it appertains to choſe and nominate into the Order whom they eſteem to be moſt worthy of that Honor, and like to be the greateſt Ornaments unto it. Yet ſo that ſix at leaſt of the ſaid Fellows do conveene at the Election, and concurre in it, the reſidue of them being all warned to be there preſent, and ſuch as faile of their attendance without juſt cauſe, ſuch as the Soveraign ſhall approve, to be amerced. In their Elections two things there are which they eſpecially obſerv.

Firſt, that the Party nominated, be a Gentleman of Name, and Arms; for three deſcents both by the Fathers ſide, and the Mothers ſide. For which cauſe when the Garter was reproachfully taken from the Lord *William Pagit*, by *Dudly* of *Northumberland* to give to *John* his Eldeſt ſon, the Earl of *Warwick*: he uſed this colour to diſguiſe that foule diſhonor; that the ſaid Lord, (as the firſt raiſer of his houſe) was ſaid to be no Gentleman of blood, neither by father nor mother, as Sir *John Heyward* tels the ſtory.

The ſecond thing to be obſerved is that the party nominated be without ſpot or foul reproach: as *viz*: not convict of Hereſy; nor attaint of Treaſon; nor by his Prodigality and Riot decayed in his Eſtate, by means whereof he is not able to conſerve the Honor of his Order; nor ſuch a one as ever fled in the day of Battail; his Soveraign Lord, or his Lieutenant being in the field. In all which caſes a Knight Elected, and Inſtalled may alſo if it pleaſe the Soveraigne, be degraded.

The Party choſen by the Prince, if he be a ſtranger,

ger, is certified thereof ſoon after by letters from the Soveraign: and many times the Statutes of that Order have been ſent unto him to conſider of them, whether or no he will accept of this Election. But this is a matter meerly formal; for commonly our Kings are firſt well aſſured of the Parties good affection to them, before they chooſe him: and as for Soveraign Princes it is a true note of *Mr. Cambdens*, that the moſt mighty of them have reputed it their chiefeſt Honour to be choſen and admitted into this Company. If he accept it (as no queſtion but he will) then doth the Soveraign forthwith ſend unto him by his Ambaſſadour and the chief Herald (commonly) the whole Habit of the Order, with the Garter and the Collar wherewith they do inveſt him. And on the other ſide, the Prince or Stranger ſo inveſted, within convenient time, ſend their ſufficient Deputy with a Mantle of blew Velvet, to be inſtalled in their room at St. GEORGE'S Church in *Winſore*. But if the party choſen be a Subject of the Kingdom, the Garter is delivered to him preſently upon his Election, to ſignifie that he is choſe into the Order. Afterwards in the Chapter-houſe, upon the reading of his Commiſſion before the Soveraign or his Deputy, he is inveſted with the Robe and with the Hood. Then follows the Inſtallment, performed with many grave and magnificent Ceremonies: which done, he doth receive the Collar of the Order. This at their Inſtallations have alwayes an Oath adminiſtrated, that to their power, during the time they ſhall be fellows of the Order, they ſhall defend the Honour, Quarrels, Rights and Lordſhips, of the Soveraign, and that they ſhall indeavour to preſerve

ſerve the Honour of the ſaid Order: and all the Statutes of it they ſhall well obſerve, without fraud or covin. Which Oath is by the Natives of the Kingdom taken abſolutely, and in terms; but many times by Strangers relatively and by halfes, in reference to ſome former Order.

So when King *Henry* the third of *France*, was by the Earl of *Darby* inveſted with the Garter, *Anno* 1585, he took his Oath to keep the Statutes of the Order in all points, wherein they were not oppoſite to the Order of St. *Michael*, and the *Holy Ghoſt*, to which he had been ſworn before. Upon which reaſon alſo *Frederick* King of *Denmark*, though he did joyfully accept the habit of the Order, refuſed to take the Oath at all, becauſe he had been ſworn before (at his Inſtallation in the Order of St. *Michael*) to the King of *France*. Being thus ſolemnly inſtalled and ſeated in the place belonging to them in the Chappel, their next care is to faſten an Eſcoteheon of their Arms and Hachments, in a plate of mettal, upon the back of their ſaid Stalls, which they remove according as themſelves in Order are advanced higher. And in that order they do alſo change the places of their Banners, Swords and Helmets, which are continually ſet over their ſaid Stalls, during their being of the Order. This only is the difference, that at the death of any of the Knights of this moſt Noble Order, their plate of Arms is left for ever to that Stall, where laſt they ſat, to preſerve their memory: whereas the Banner, Sword and Helmet, are all taken down, and offered with all due ſolemnities, the Offerings made by ſuch of the ſurviving Knights, as by the Soveraign ſhall be deſtinated

ted to that ſervice. I ſaid before that they remove their Plates, and Hachments, according as themſelves in order are advanced higher in this Order, they take place according to the antiquity of their Creation, and not according to their Dignities, Titles, and Eſtates, ſo that ſometimes a Knight *Bachelour* hath place before an Earl or *Baron*, as not long ſince we had example in *Sir Harry Lee* Knight, keeper of the Armory. Only in Honour unto Strangers which be Dukes, or ſons and brethren unto forrein Kings and Princes, it is permitted that they take their ſpoms and places according to their quality.

Hitherto we have ſpoken of the Election of *Saint* GEORGE's Knights and their admiſſion to the Order. A little would be ſaid now of the means and wayes whereby their rooms are void, and their places deſtitute: and they are three: For either they are void by Death, or by Degradation, or by Ceſſion and ſurrendry. The ſecond of theſe (for we wil not ſpeak of Death) is Degradation, a piece of Juſtice more to be commended where it may not, than where it may be ſpared. The Caſes wherein Degradation is allowed of, I have already ſhewn, but the examples are but few. *William* Lord *Paget* which was ſo ſcornfully degraded by *Northumberland*, was by Queen *Mary* with great Honour reſtored again unto his Order. And *Sir John Faſtolfe*, which for his valiantneſſe had been elected of the Order, was by the Duke of *Bedford*, under whom he ſerved, and unto whom he was great Maſter of the Houſhold, diveſted in great anger, of his George and Garter: becauſe he had departed from a *Battel* (which the *Engliſh* loſt) without ſtroke ſtricken:

But afterwards by means of his friends, and upon good excuſe and reaſon by him alledged in his defence (for certainly he was a wiſe and valiant Captain, however on the Stage they have been pleaſed to make merry with him) was reſtored to his Honour. The third and laſt means of avoidance, is by Ceſſion or ſurrendry. and here of the examples are alſo very few. This I am ſure of (not to make further ſearch into it) that *Philip* King of *Spain* being offended with Queen *Elizabeth* about her altering of Religion, and thereby alienated from the *Engliſh*, delivered back unto the Lord Vicount *Mountaque* the Robes and Habit of the Order wherewith he was inveſted on his Marriage with Queen *Mary*. By which his Act, as the Hiſtorian hath obſerved, he ſeemed to break off utterly all amity and friendſhip with the Realm of *England*. It is true indeed, King *Philip* being once reſolved to renounce his Order, was of neceſſity to ſend back the Habit; for ſo it is ordained amongſt them, that even ſuch of them as depart this life, are to take care eſpecially, that the Garter be reſtored to the Soveraign; by him, and by the company of the ſaid Order, to be diſpoſed of to ſome other: examples in which kind are infinite to relate.

Windſore, the faireſt and moſt ſtately of our *Engliſh* Palaces, was by King *Edward* who adorned and beautified it, conceived moſt fit to be the ſeat of this moſt excellent Order which he had eſtabliſhed. An houſe indeed worthy of ſuch Inhabitants, and therefore worthily honoured by them: For here they alwayes leave in readineſſe the Mantle of their Order, to be laid up for them, for any ſudden chances

which

which might happen to require their presence at St. GEORGE's Chappel, or in the Chapter-house: Here do they solemnize the Installations of their brethren, and perform their obsequies. And lastly, such a reverend regard they owe the place, that if they come within two miles of it (except that they be hindred by some weighty and important business) they alwayes do repair thereto, and putting on their Mantles, which are their in readinesse, proceed unto the Chappel, and there make their offerings. Nor do they go at any time from out the Castle, if their occasions bring them thither, till they have offered in like manner.

Having thus spoken of the statutes of this most Noble Order whereby they are and have been governed, we will descend in the next place to give you notice of their Patron, which after the opinions of those times, they chose unto themselves. Of which this *Polydore Virgil*. This order is (saith he) dedicated unto St GEORGE as the chief Saint, and Patron of the men of War; whose Festivall they therefore solemnly observe with many noble Ceremonies. But what need *Polidore* have been produced unto this purpose, since from the Charter of the Institution we have a testimony more authenticall. For there King *Edward* tels us that to the Honor of Almighty God, and of the Blessed Virgin St. *Mary*, and of the Glorious Martyr St. GEORGE, Patron of the Right Noble Realm of *England*, and to the Exaltation of the Holy Catholick Faith, he had ordained, established, created and founded within his Castle of *Windsore*, a Company of twenty six Noble Knights to be of the said most Noble Order

of St. GEORGE, named the Garter. It is true indeed what *Polidor* hath well observed, with how great Ceremony and Solemnity the Knights do Celebrate this Feast: Attending both on the Vesper, and the day it self at Divine Service, attired in the most rich and stately Mantels of the Order: and gallantly adorned with their most rich and sumptuous Collars (which we call of *SS.*) The Image of St. GEORGE, garnished with pearls and precious stones, appendant to them. In which their going to the Church, and in their sitting at the Table, they go and set by two and two, every one with his fellow which is fore against him in his stall. And if by chance it happen that his Fellow be not present he doth both go and set alone, I say if it chance to happen: for all the Fellows are obliged to be there personally present, without a just and reasonable cause acceptable to the Soveraigne or his Deputy, and signified by speciall letters of Excuse. Other Pompe and Rich magnificence of this Feast I forbear to mention, as being unable to express it. The mind is then best satisfied in such things as this, when the eye hath seen them. But I proceed unto St. GEORGE, of which their Patron, and the Noble Order it self, the Marriage of the *Thame*, and *Isis*, and Poem written some years since, doth thus descant.

Windsore

Windſore relate no more the glorious things
In thee, thy guilded roofes, and Tombs of Kings.
Or that thou art ſo honored in the rites
Of George, the Cappedocians Martyrs, Knights.
Who clad in Mantels rich, and circuled round
The leg, with that the Garter ſo renown'd,
Doth ſo advance thy name, and with its raiſe
Splendant and glorious, ſo the world amaze:
That Burgandy her Golden Fleece neglects
And France St Michaels Collar diſreſpects.
And Spain and Malta both eſteem but ſmall.
Their Croſſed robes. Thy Order dims them all.

Hence it is, that the Knights of this moſt honorable Order, are called in Latine *Equites Georgiani*, St. GEORGES Knights, and ſometimes alſo in Engliſh, as in that paſſage noted out of *Poly Albion.*

The Temple of St. George, where his honored Knights
Upon the hallowed day obſerve their antient rites.

The other Ornaments and Habits belonging to this Order, beſides the Garter; are a Gown, a Kirtle, a Chaperon, a Cloak, a Girdle, and a Collar: all Stately and Magnificent, both for ſtuffe and faſhion,

ſhion, but worne only upon daies of Extraordinary Solemnity for ordinary uſe., beſides the Garter which is for every daies wearing, and their Cloak with the Star on the left ſhoulder of it in its full Glory, which laſt was added by his late Majeſty of ever Bleſſed Memory, they have a Blew Ribbon which they weare about their necks, with the picture or rather portraicture of the GEORGE, appendant to it.

FINIS.